

SOCIAL ACTION NEWSLETTER

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D. P. F. WILL AID CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS

To each registered conscientious objector within the draft ages of 21 to 35, the Disciples Peace Fellowship, in cooperation with the Department of Social Education and Social Action, will send a packet of material containing information about the law, about registration and application for exemption, how to prepare for a hearing before the local draftboard, and other important information. It is estimated that among the approximately 2000 Disciples whose duplicate enrollment cards are on file in the office, some 900 are subject to the draft. The following documents will be in the packet:

Excerpts from the Selective Service Act
Important Information Concerning the Conscription Law, including registration, exemptions, how to prepare for hearing before the local board, procedure for appeals, types of alternative service, and what the C. O. can expect from his minister and his church.

Excerpts from Resolutions of the International Convention Concerning the Churches and War, the Churches and Conscientious Objectors, etc.

Christianity is Pacifism, by A. T. DeGroot.
The Disciples Peace Fellowship, its Purpose and its Program.
Other peace materials.

For those who desire it the Fellowship has prepared a packet containing, in addition to the above, one copy each of the following publications:

The Pacifist Handbook.
What About the Conscientious Objector? A supplement to the Handbook.
How to Keep America Out of War, by Kirby Page.

This packet can be secured by sending 25 cents to George H. Wilson, 685 Columbus Street, Benton Harbor, Michigan. Since the cost of this material is in excess of the price asked for it, it is requested that cash accompany the order.

In cooperation with the Young Peoples' Work Committee the Department and the Fellowship are cooperating with the American Friends Service Committee in promoting National Volunteer Service Camps for those who prefer civilian work to military training. Inquiries should be addressed to American Friends Service Committee, 20 South 12th Street, Philadelphia.

ONE YEAR OF WAR

On September 1, 1940 ended the first year of war in Europe. In a syndicated article dealing with the subject, Associated Press said, "Strike a balance on the first anniversary of the new world war, and you're deep in bloody bookkeeping!" More than 800,000 are dead and over 3,000,000 wounded. More than 8,000,000 Europeans have been forced out of their homes to become fleeing refugees. More than 800 ships totaling 3,000,000 tons have been sunk, carrying to death 7,000 human beings. Warsaw and Rotterdam have been destroyed by bombs and other cities like London, Paris, Berlin, seriously damaged by bombing. In Rotterdam 26,000 buildings were destroyed by bombers in less than three hours, wiping out a third of the city and bringing death to perhaps 100,000 people. The following are losses by various nations as listed by Associated Press.

Killed

France	350,000
Poland	200,000
Russia	100,000
Germany	70,000
Britain	40,000
Belgium	35,000
Holland	30,000
Finland	26,000
Norway	5,000
Italy	1,000

Wounded

France	1,000,000
Poland	800,000
Russia	375,000
Germany	250,000
Britain	150,000
Holland	140,000
Italy	4,000
Belgium	70,000
Finland	60,000
Norway	15,000

Refugees

French and Belgians, in France	7,000,000
Finns, from lost areas	440,000
Poles	143,000
Jews from German occupied Poland	300,000
Rumanians from Bessarabia	300,000
Anti-Nazi Germans	90,000

In addition, Germany announces the capture of 1,900,000 French soldiers. No estimate can be given at this time of the staggering financial cost in terms of military expenditures and damage to cities. Nor are civilian casualties included in the dead and wounded.

CHURCH LEADERS SAY CIVIL RIGHTS THREATENED

Citing "an alarming number of instances of entirely illegal interference with the election rights of certain minority parties," a group of church leaders under the sponsorship of Dr. Guy Emery Shipley, editor of The Churchman, (Episcopal), the oldest religious journal in the English-speaking world (founded 1804), have released a statement denouncing this practice and demanding that all citizens be protected in their political rights. The statement reads in part as follows:

"Recent months have witnessed an alarming number of instances of entirely illegal interference with the election rights of certain minority parties. These instances have not been confined to any one locality, but have occurred in at least thirteen states. They have involved the Socialist, Communist, Socialist-Labor and Prohibition Parties and the Democrats-for-Willkie Movement. ... We as clergymen and church members, must warn our fellow-citizens of the grave danger to American institutions, if these illegal acts continue. With the platforms and purposes of the parties involved we are not concerned, and to some we are completely opposed. We are, however, deeply concerned with the maintenance of American democratic government through the system of political parties. ... To deny any citizen the legal right to vote as his conscience dictates is to abolish the franchise. We churchmen are particularly concerned with the right of free conscience and free worship, which, after a long struggle and bitter persecutions, has been established as the crowning glory of our national life. The recent history of other nations has shown to all men that this precious right cannot exist alone, but is dependent upon the continued freedom to exercise all democratic rights. Wherever political rights have been infringed, infringement of the right of free conscience and worship has inevitably followed. We therefore ask our fellow-citizens of all faiths and shades of belief to unite with us in condemning these violations of the rights of political minorities, and in calling upon all those entrusted with the enforcement of the law to protect all citizens in the exercise of their political rights and themselves to abide by the clear constitutional and other legal guarantees of the same, to the end that our American democracy may remain inviolate and invincible and that justice and freedom may triumph in the world."

Accompanying the statement is a document citing violation of civil rights in 23 different States. These violations involve instances of vigilantism and mob violence against those circulating election petitions, publication of lists of signers of election petitions resulting in discharge and 'blacklisting' of certain individuals, announcement of election officials that certain minority parties would be kept off the ballot in clear contravention of law, arrest and indictment of circulators and signers of election petitions, arrests and confinement without charges being filed, letters from the Dies Committee to persons signing petitions. These acts have been committed not against one group only, but against various minority parties. Among the signers are Dr. W. Russell Bowie, Dr. F. W. Burnham, Dr. Albert Buckner Coe, Bishop Oxnam, Dr. Charles R. Sizoo, and Rabbi Wise.

TO COUNSEL CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS

The Department of Social Education and Social Action of The United Christian Missionary Society and the Disciples Peace Fellowship will undertake to give aid and counsel to conscientious objectors among the churches of the Disciples of Christ, according to an announcement made following a meeting of the executive committee of the Fellowship held in Indianapolis on September 30th. The officers of the Disciples Peace Fellowship are, Myron Taggart Hopper, professor of religious education, College of the Bible, Lexington, Ky., president, Harold Lunger, pastor of Austin Boulevard Christian Church, Oak Park, Ill., vice president, George H. Wilson, pastor of First Christian Church, Benton Harbor, Mich., treasurer, and James A. Crain, secretary.

The Disciples Peace Fellowship in conjunction with the Department of Social Education and Social Action has issued a document of information for the use of conscientious objectors under the title "Important Information Concerning the Conscription Law" containing excerpts from the Act, suggestions about enrollment as a conscientious objector on the records of the local church, registration under the Act, what to do after registration, how to prepare for a hearing before the local draft board, what the conscientious objector can reasonably expect from his church and his minister, and a bibliography. This document, together with certain other pamphlets and leaflets is being sent to all registered conscientious objectors in the brotherhood. Another document has been prepared for the use of pastors under the title of "Suggestions to Ministers Concerning the Conscription Law." This also carried excerpts from the Act covering such matters as registration, exemption of ministers and theological students, exemption of conscientious objectors, and penalties for aiding or abetting evasion of the Act. It gives guidance to ministers in the matter of exemptions of various types, what the minister can and cannot legally do for the conscientious objector, how to help the conscientious objector present his case, and a bibliography. Mr. Crain has been in close contact with the Washington committee on the conscientious objector since the conscription law was first introduced in Congress and has been kept advised of developments as they have occurred. He has also counselled with military officials having to do with the administration of the law and will be available for help in local situations needing outside aid and counsel.

Arrangements have also been made to supply to those needing additional material a packet containing the Pacifist Handbook, What About the Conscientious Objector?, Kirby Page's How to Keep America Out of War, and other materials. This packet will sell for 25 cents and can be obtained from George H. Wilson, 685 Columbus, Benton Harbor, Michigan. Since the cost of the material is greater than the price being asked for the packet, cash with the order is requested.

Plans are under consideration looking toward setting up committees in each state in which there are registered Disciple conscientious objectors to help counsel and advise persons asking exemption on the ground of conscientious objection.

ON SOCIAL FRONTIERS

The Children's Bureau of the Department of Labor on September 1, 1940 issued an order declaring employment in coal mines a hazardous occupation for minors between the ages of 16 and 18. This order established an 18-year minimum age under the child labor provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act for all labor about mines except slate and refuse picking at picking tables or chutes in tipples or breakers and in office and repair and maintenance units above ground.

According to the United Automobile Worker, Detroit, the UAW-CIO has raised the earnings of almost a half million auto workers from an average of 59.9 cents an hour in 1933 to 94.5 cents per hour in 1940. According to Union claims auto workers have received a total of \$800,000,000 in increased wages during the past six years.

Professor Edward Alsworth Ross of the University of Wisconsin and dean of American sociologists has been elected chairman of the American Civil Liberties Union national committee to succeed Dr. Harry F. Ward who held that post for 20 years. Dr. Ross has been on the national committee for more than a decade.

The American Civil Liberties Union recently took action holding it "inappropriate for any person to serve on the governing committees of the Union or on its staff, who is a member of any political organization which supports totalitarian dictatorship in any country," specifying the Communist Party among others. In harmony with this action the Union removed from membership on its board of directors Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, long noted as a Communist leader.

U. S. Commissioner of Education John W. Studebaker has called upon the chief school officers of the 48 States, outlying possessions and territories to reinforce citizenship education in order to make Americans "alert to the meaning of events and to the tactics of aggressors." As practical measures he urges, (1) elimination of illiteracy, (2) education of foreign-born and foreign language groups in the United States in the history and principles of democracy, and (3) education of adults through practical and systematic study and discussion of modern problems.

Indiana women in intrastate industries have no protection against long hours and low wages, according to The Woman Worker, published by the Women's Bureau of the U. S. Dept. of Labor. Workers in laundries, restaurants, taverns, small establishments that pay low salaries and commissions, and curb service that pays no wages at all but expects young women to depend on tips are the chief sufferers. A State wages and hours law failed to pass the 1939 legislature.

There are 248,627 children in the U. S. on the registers of State agencies administering services for crippled children under the Social Security Act. About 36,000 were crippled by infantile paralysis, 19,000 by spastic paralysis, 14,000 had clubfoot, and 11,000 osteomyelitis (bone infection). Prior to the inauguration of Social Security very little information was available on the number of crippled children.

PROFITEERING IN NATIONAL DEFENSE

The net profits of 400 leading American corporations were 58.6% higher in the first six months of 1940 than in the first six months of 1939, according to the United Automobile Worker, of Detroit, quoting figures released by the National City Bank of New York. According to this report the total profits of these corporations for the first six months of 1940 amounted to \$648,928,000, or an increase of 58.6% above the same period last year. Eleven major automobile companies realized a profit of \$146,937,000 during the first half of the current year, as compared to \$125,335,000 for the same period last year. Twenty-two firms manufacturing parts realized a profit of \$17,648,000 for the first half of this year, as compared to \$10,849,000 for the first six months of 1939. In the issue of September 1, 1940, the United Automobile Worker cites figures from Economic Outlook showing the following list of corporations and increased profits realized from national defense expenditures.

	1940 1st 6 mos.	Profit Increase
General Motors	\$113,575,460	13%
Chrysler	30,494,274	20%
Bohn Aluminum	728,165	250%
Douglas (aircraft)	3,388,857	140%
Martin (aircraft)	4,291,490	330%
United Aircraft	6,228,106	70%
Bendix Aviation	4,295,419	98%
Curtiss-Wright	6,235,969	85%
Wright Aeronautical	2,599,989	20%
General Electric	25,871,572	58%
Westinghouse	9,837,012	55%
Du Pont	46,853,695	17%
Youngstown Sheet	2,423,212	340%
Bethlehem	21,698,457	250%
Jones & Laughlin	3,276,256	485%
Republic Steel	6,449,453	500%
Caterpillar Tractor	3,509,514	52%
Remington Arms	1,219,000	750%
U. S. Steel	36,315,003	1740%
Inland Steel	5,933,499	58%
Crucible	2,404,883	585%
Pure Oil	4,700,000	95%
Shell Union Oil	9,449,947	336%
Remington-Rand	1,765,998	270%
Libby-Owens-Ford	5,176,748	95%
Consumers Power-12 mos.	10,635,796	16%
Goodyear	4,142,892	15%

It will be noted that the percentage of profit increase in certain lines is not large as compared with certain other industries. This is accounted for in part by the fact that certain industries, such as automobile manufacturing, was already enjoying a large profit and the increase, while large in dollars and cents is small in percentage. On the other hand, steel companies had been operating on a small profit, so that current profits show up in large percentage figures. In connection with corporation profits it is pertinent to note that wages of the total industrial payroll of the nation rose only 13% during the first six months of 1940. This pay increase was more than offset by a 17% increase in living costs.

It is believed that the excess profits tax will not greatly affect many of these corporations, due to its liberal provisions and the high average of profits over the past five years.

ROMAN CATHOLICS ORGANIZE TRADE UNIONISTS

More than a year ago Social Action News-letter reported that Roman Catholic leaders, after studying the possibilities of organizing their members into Catholic trade unions had rejected the idea in favor of a plan to train Roman Catholic unionists to exercise leadership in the existing trade union movement.

Following out that program the first National Convention of Catholic Trade Unionists was held in Cleveland, Ohio on Saturday, August 31 over Labor Day, Monday, September 2, 1940. The significance of the occasion is underscored by the fact that at a Mass held for the group on Sunday morning at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, the celebrant was none other than Archbishop Joseph Schrembs, Bishop of the Diocese of Cleveland, and the preacher the Right Reverend John A. Ryan, director of the Social Action Department of the National Catholic Welfare Council. At 10 a.m. on Labor Day a "Workingmen's Mass" was held in the same cathedral with Archbishop Schrembs again acting as celebrant, while the Rev. John P. Monaghan, chaplain of the New York chapter of the Association of Catholic Trade Unionists preached the sermon. On the program were a number of labor union officials and officers of the ACTU. The labor movement is today the most vital force in the lives of millions of workingmen. If the Protestant churches continue to neglect this field they will have only themselves to blame if twenty-five years from now they awake to find the bulk of the workers within the Roman fold. It is no accident that more Catholic priests than Protestant ministers are now serving as spiritual advisors to labor groups or that Catholic priests are frequently called upon to serve on boards mediating strikes while Protestant ministers are generally overlooked when such important services are to be rendered.

ELDERS SUPPORT MINISTER ON CIVIL LIBERTY

When Dr. Bert R. Johnson, pastor of First Christian Church, Jackson, Mississippi was attacked editorially because of his defense of the right of the religious group known as Jehovah's Witnesses to believe and preach according to the dictates of their own conscience, the board of elders of that church met and passed a strong resolution of appreciation and support of their pastor. The resolution is as follows:

"The Board of Elders, First Christian Church, Jackson, Mississippi, desires to officially express to you our deep appreciation of your fine leadership, both in the pulpit and in your personal ministry. Your sermons are a constant source of pride to us and an inspiration to all who hear you from Sunday to Sunday. Jesus said to Peter, "Feed my sheep." He also said, "Man liveth not by bread alone." You are truly feeding your flock mentally and spiritually. We commend your efforts to keep the congregation fully informed and to give us a sane and reasonable view of religion. We freely admit that we have not always given you the fullest cooperation, leaving the task of spiritual guidance largely to you and we pledge closer cooperation in the future. May our pleasant relationship of minister and congregation continue for many years."

LEAGUE MAY BE REVIVED, SAYS FRENCH LEADER

That the League of Nations may be revived after the new peace treaties have been written is the conviction of Joseph Paul-Boncour, former premier and foreign minister of France, who with Aristide Briand was for 20 years a leader in the work of the League on behalf of France. This belief was expressed by the former French leader in an interview given to Ralph Heinzen, U. P. staff correspondent at Vichy and was passed by the censor for transmission to the United States. But whether the League is revived or not, declares Paul-Boncour, it proved its worth by its accomplishments during the years of reconstruction which followed the World War. "The League," he said, "might have proved to be a valuable medium for the adaptation of the treaties to evolving circumstances in Europe." "The League did fulfill successfully its original role - that of making the Versailles treaty work. Without the League, the Europe as President Wilson, David Lloyd George, Georges Clemenceau and other peace-makers conceived it would not have lasted two years. In my opinion, the greatest failure of the League was its inability to obtain universal disarmament or limitation of arms." Agreement on disarmament had been very near on several occasions, said Paul-Boncour, but the turning point came on October 11, 1933 when Germany withdrew from membership. Until that time the League's power had increased steadily. "Failure to obtain an arms limitation while it was still possible is the only grave fault that can be charged to the League," he said.

Whether or not the League can be revived will not be known until the new peace treaties are written. When these pacts are drafted it will be readily seen whether the League can continue to function as an international clearing-house and sounding-board or whether the defection of its European members will deprive it of its strength and its reason to exist. The personnel of the League proper has resigned, but its technical divisions are still at work in neutral countries. If revived the League will probably be divided into regional groups - European, American, Asiatic - each to handle the problems of its own part of the world, yet fitting into the total framework. This would permit regional problems to be handled by the nations most immediately affected and eliminate participation of nations not directly involved.

SECTION 562 P. L. & R.

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